

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

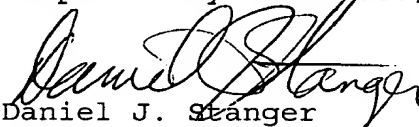
Claims 23-47 are now pending.

Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kulkarni et al. US 5,862,481 (Kulkarni). To expedite allowance of Claims 23-47, all of which are indicated as allowable in the Office Action, the Applicants have canceled Claims 20-22, without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants reserve all rights in the subject matter of Claims 20-22 as filed.

Claim 23 and Claim 25 have been amended to include the subject matter of independent Claim 20, from which they are derived. Accordingly, all of Claims 23-47 are believed to be in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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